

CHILD LABOR—REGULATING EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

S. H. B. No. 38.]

CHAPTER XXVIII.

An Act to regulate the employment of children in factories, mills, mines, breweries, manufacturing establishments and other establishments using machinery; and to provide penalties for violation of same.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:* Any person or any agent or employe of any person, firm or corporation, who shall hereafter employ any child under the age of twelve years to labor in or about any mill, factory, manufacturing establishment, or other establishment using machinery, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than fifty dollars, and not more than two hundred dollars, and each day the provisions of this Act are violated shall constitute a separate offense.

SEC. 2. Any person, or any agent or employe of any person, firm or corporation, who shall hereafter employ any child between the ages of twelve and fourteen years (who cannot read and write simple sentences in the English language) to labor in or about any mill, factory, manufacturing establishment, or other establishment using machinery, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than fifty dollars, nor more than two hundred dollars; and each day the provisions of this Act are violated shall constitute a separate offense; provided, that such child who has a widowed mother, or parent incapacitated to support it, may be employed between the hours of 6 a. m. and 6 p. m.; provided, further, that such parent is incapacitated from earning a living, and has no means of support other than the labor of such child; and in no event shall any child between the ages of twelve and fourteen years be permitted to work outside the hours between 6 a. m. and 6 p. m.

SEC. 3. Any person, or agent or employe of any person, firm or corporation, owning, operating or assisting in operating, any mine, distillery or brewery, who shall employ any child under the age of sixteen years to labor in or about any mine, distillery or brewery, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than fifty, nor more than two hundred dollars.

SEC. 4. The fact that there is now no law to prohibit the employment of children of tender age in the factories of the State, to the great injury of the children, and of society generally, creates an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the Constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended, and that this bill be put upon its third reading and final passage; and it is so enacted.

Approved March 6, 1903.

Takes effect 90 days after adjournment.
